

SEBIOUS ILLNESS IN HOSPITAL

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tions ahead. I felt their hopelessness all the more because I am inclined to think their attitude was sincere. But the great majority of men in the Lower House and at least the large minority of the Senators either were or appeared to be sincerely desirous of accepting the fact that we were about to face a changed world and that mere negation and obstruction and attempts to revive the dead past spelled ruin. They were all of them anxious to have me take some position of leadership, and equally anxious that I should not think that this committed them to definitely following me, and above all that I should not think it committed them to making me the candidate in 1920. After a little thought I came to the conclusion that it was better for me to talk openly to them and I speedily devised my formula, used over and over again, to this effect, 'I am not in the least concerned with *yow* supporting- we either now or at any future time; all I am concerned with is that you should so act that *I* can support *you*.' "

When in the spring of 1918, a movement was started to add 3,700 volunteers to the Twenty-seventh New York Volunteer Division, IT. S. A., in order to bring it up to war strength, the enlisted men detailed for the task wrote to Roosevelt asking him to make an appeal in aid of their work. He replied at once on April 6, 1918, as follows:

"Your letter should stir the patriotism of every true American in more ways than one, and every man in New

York State fit to go to the war and outside the
draft limits
should respond to your appeal, if by any
possibility he can
do so. I like what you say about the fact that
90 per cent
of the officers in the division have risen from
the ranks,
and that Major General O'Eyan himself began
his service
as a private in one of the regiments now under
him. This
represents the true American spirit; and when
we get our
universal service every officer in the army
and the navy
will have served for a year as an enlisted man
before he is
eligible for appointment as an officer.

"I most earnestly hope that your appeal will
be success-